

MAY AND JUNE—



Elopement Planned by Hall

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this point. Jimmie Mills gazed idly about the room, betraying little interest.

Q. You said that Mrs. Mills used to meet Dr. Hall at Buccleuch Park in the day time, helping him with his sermons? A. They used to meet there at night, too.

Q. Did they meet any place else? A. Yes, in New York.

Q. This park bench was the only place in New Brunswick where you knew they met? A. Yes, there and Easton Avenue.

McCarter asked Mrs. Barnhardt about her trip to the Home for the Aged in Bound Brook with Mrs. Mills and Dr. Hall.

Then he questioned her on the Halloween party, bringing out the fact that Mrs. Hall does not dance; that the woman who married a man ten years her junior paid for it by watching him smiling and happy with younger women as she sat by neglected.

Q. Did Dr. Hall dance with you? A. Yes.

Incident in Study

Then he asked her about the incident in the study.

Q. How did you enter? A. Through the Sunday school room. When I called to her, Dr. Hall came from his study.

McCarter brought out a map and had the witness illustrate the incident.

Q. Your sister had told you she was very unhappy in her life with James Mills? A. She was very unhappy with her life in general.

"That Halloween party was a mask affair," Simpson took his witness again, "do you remember that Mrs. Hall went over to take the mask off a woman, and Dr. Hall prevented it?"

"I don't remember."

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McCarter established the date as Halloween, 1920. Simpson insisted the witness had testified that she had previously fixed the date as 1921, the year before the murders.

"Mrs. Hall sat there all evening watching them. She was the only woman without a mask. She wore a period costume."

Elijah King Soper testified he had attended a Masonic meeting in Somerville on the murder night.

Saw Car in Lane

Leaving there before 12 o'clock, he passed De Russeys Lane at midnight on his drive to New Brunswick.

Q. Do you know Mrs. Hall or



MRS. ELSIE BARNHARDT

the Stevens brothers? A. I know Willie Stevens.

Q. As you passed De Russey's Lane did you notice anything? A. Yes, a green or black touring car. Two men were in the front seat. A lady in a light coat was in the back.

Q. Were the car's lights on? A. They were dimmed.

William Phillips, the night watchman, had testified earlier in the trial that the women who entered the Hall home at 2:30 a. m., wore a light coat. It was a light brown coat that Mrs. Hall sent to Philadelphia dyers soon after the murders.

Court recessed with Soper's cross-examination incomplete.

After recess, Senator Case took up the cross-examination of Soper.

Q. You have since learned that that car belonged to a barber in Bound Brook? A. No.

Q. The car, Mr. Soper, had its headlights dimmed, or were there no lights? A. They were dimmed.

"You know a Mr. Ira Nixon," Simpson asked.

"Didn't you tell him the next day at your place of business that you had recognized Mrs. Hall and her two brothers in the car?"

"No."

"Didn't you tell Mr. Nixon and a Mr. Kingsley that by the bright lights you had recognized Mrs. Hall and her brothers?"

"No."

Soper was dismissed, and Ira E. Nixon took the stand.

He said he had met Soper at a

business place in Newark the Saturday after the bodies were found.

Case interrupted the witness with a desperate plea to the court that the testimony be stricken out.

It was a tense moment. Willie Stevens's eyes popped. Mrs. Hall and Henry Stevens gazed steadily at Nixon.

"Did he tell you he had recognized Mrs. Hall and her brothers?" persisted Simpson.

"He did," Nixon replied.

"What is your business?" Case asked the witness.

Thought It Time to Tell

"I make and sell motor oil. My business place is in New York."

"Why are you here today?" asked Case.

"Because for the last four years I have had this information in my breast. I thought it was time to tell the people of New Jersey what I know."

"Were you subpoenaed to come here?"

As Senator Case interrogated the state's latest surprise witness, Mrs. Hall, still calm, but visibly affected by Nixon's story, followed the cross-examination. Her eyes went from her counsel to the witness and back again.

"I called Capt. Walsh last week and told him what I knew."

"And you knew that there had been an insistent search for four years to find the perpetrators of that crime?"

"I knew that there were some people who wished to know."

Case sought to discredit the witness's testimony but the latter was firm.

Q. Why did you come forward now? A. Because my father told me to do so.

Q. Why did you not come out before today? A. Because I did not want to be harassed and kept around this court house for three weeks, as Mr. Soper had been.

Q. Then you knew that the two men this man had said were in the car were Henry and Willie Stevens? A. All I knew was what he told me, as I have told you—I did not know if their name was Smith or what.

Hall Case Lesson To Youth of U. S.

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as the very incarnation of purity and goodness, he blew out his brains.

The shock of this tragedy brought his old grandfather to his death and wrecked and ruined not only one family and one life, but a whole group of human beings, because this beautiful woman had sinned, as she thought in secret and in ways that could not affect any one else. So the author tells us that "she began, suddenly and with consternation, to understand that the whole vast fabric of society rested on that same ideal of purity. And she had been secretly undermining it. Her breath caught, strangling, in her throat.

"In the crack of the pistol and the crash of ruined family life, she heard for the first time the dreadful sound of the argument of her

wife, her mother, her sisters,

and her brothers."

He said he had met Soper at a

fact of social responsibility and through that, the knowledge of personal guilt.

We simply cannot sin alone, and this Hall-Mills case, shocking and horrible though it is, may produce some good results if the American people, and especially the rising generation, will really take to heart its lessons.

Don't miss Dr. Stratton's startling analysis of the Hall-Mills trial every day exclusively in The GRAPHIC.

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